

We Claim:

Sub A17

1. An educational system, comprising:  
an object having at least one visually recognizable symbol  
thereon;

an emitter within said object for emitting a signal uniquely  
representative of said at least one visually recognizable symbol; and  
an enclosure, including:

a surface for supporting said object, and  
a processor, including means for receiving said signal  
from said emitter, said processor capable of identifying said  
symbol from said signal, and capable of identifying a position of  
said object on said surface.

2. An apparatus for entering data into a computer, the data being entered  
via the placement of a plurality of objects on the apparatus, each object  
having at least one unique item of detectable data associated therewith,  
comprising:

a surface for receiving the placement of an object;  
one or more detectors capable of detecting the data associated  
with an object placed on the surface;  
a line capable of communicating the detected data from the  
apparatus to the computer.

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3. An apparatus as in claim 2 whereby the detectors are capable of detecting the location of an object on the surface.

Add A<sup>2</sup>7